

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/686,130
Reply to Office Action dated September 6, 2005

REMARKS

In the subject Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 5-7, and objected to claims 2-4. Applicant has amended claim 1. Claims 1-7 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been entered. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and advancement of this application to allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

First in the subject Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to be more specific about which "a difference" is intended.

It is noted that the amendments discussed in this section were not made to overcome art based rejections. Accordingly, such amendments should not be construed in a limiting manner.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner next rejected claims 1 and 7 as being anticipated by Shirai et al. under §102(b). Applicant traverses this rejection in view of the arguments below.

Claim 1 is directed to operational amplification means which "inputs an output voltage from an output terminal to an inverted input terminal through feedback" and output acceleration means which "outputs an electric current larger than a current output from the operational amplification means to the output terminal."

In contrast, Shirai et al. fails to disclose and/or suggest operational amplification means which "inputs an output voltage from an output terminal to an inverted input terminal through feedback" and output acceleration means which "outputs an electric current larger than a current output from the operational amplification means to the output terminal." For example, in Shirai et al. (Figs 2-4), if there is "an output voltage from an output terminal to an inverted input terminal through feedback," the output voltage should be decided to be one of v2 and v1. Since

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v2 is input to the inverted input terminal (-) of the operation means (6), v2 should be the output voltage. But, v1 is actually the output voltage.

Further, if v2 is the output voltage as indicated above, the electric current output from the amplifier (5) to the output terminal (v2) is very small because the resistor (9/R1) exists. The amplifier (5) then cannot be read as an output acceleration means. Therefore, the difference between claim 1 of the present invention and Shirai et al. is clear.

Finally, if, on the other hand, v1 is considered as the output voltage, the output voltage is not input to any inverted input terminal (-). Therefore, the difference between claim 1 of the present invention and Shirai et al. is again clear. In other words, Shirai et al. fails to disclose and/or suggest operational amplification means which "inputs an output voltage from an output terminal to an inverted input terminal through feedback."

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 are respectfully requested for at least the above reasons.

Claim 7 should also be allowable for at least the same reason that claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the above, Applicant requests the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner finally rejected claims 5 and 6 under §103(a) as being obvious over Shirai et al.. Applicant traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 should be allowable. Claims 5 and 6 are dependent claims and so are also believed to be allowable over the art of record. Applicant does not otherwise concede the correctness of the Examiner's rejection and reserves the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejection.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-4 recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 2-4 depend (directly or indirectly) from independent claim 1 and include all of the elements of claim 1, which is patentable because of at least the reasons stated above. Therefore, the pending claims 2-4 are allowable.

Conclusion

This response is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the currently pending claims. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at 612.336.4755 to discuss the same.

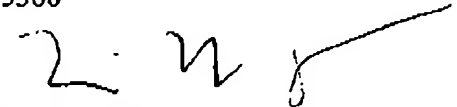
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